

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 COME-00
TRSE-00 /083 W
-----051725Z 016771 /43

P R 051405Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7981
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 5611

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, KE
SUBJECT: LEADING CRITIC OF GOVERNMENT ARRESTED

REF: NAIROBI 5389

1. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT GEORGE ANYONA, MOST VOCAL CRITIC OF GOVERNMENT POLICY IN PAST YEAR, WAS ARRESTED AT PARLIAMENT EARLY EVENING MAY 4. BRIEF REPORTS OF ARREST APPEARED IN BOTH NAIROBI DAILIES ON MAY 5, INDICATING ONLY THAT HE WAS "PICKED UP FOR QUESTIONING."

2. GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL WITH GOOD CONTACTS IN HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT ANYONA BEING DETAINED UNDER NATIONAL SECURITY PROVISIONS OF CONSTITUTION WHICH GIVE PRESIDENT AUTHORITY TO ORDER DETENTION WITHOUT TRIAL. THIS HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICLY CONFIRMED, DESPITE QUESTIONS RAISED ON FLOOR OF PARLIAMENT ON MAY 5 ABOUT ANYONA'S FATE. MP'S ARE UNDERSTANDABLY CONCERNED ABOUT INTIMIDATING EFFECT ON FREE DEBATE OF ANYONA'S ARREST.

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3. WHILE ANYONA HAS REGULARLY RAISED EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS ABOUT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS AND IS RESENTED BY OFFICIALDOM FOR HIS ABRASIVE MANNER, LOCAL SPECULATION ABOUT REASONS FOR DETENTION CENTERS ON HIS RECENT CAMPAIGN TO EXPOSE ALLEGED IMPROPER INFLUENCE IN AWARDED CONTRACTS FOR LOCOMOTIVES AND ROLLING STOCK FOR KENYA RAILWAYS (REFTTEL). ACCORDING TO ONE LOCAL

SOURCE, IT IS WIDELY KNOWN THAT 1976 CANCELLATION OF LETTERS OF INTENT AND SUBSEQUENT AWARD OF CONTRACTS TO DIFFERENT BIDDERS WAS DECISION TAKEN PERSONALLY BY THE PRESIDENT. THUS ANYONA'S EFFORT TO EXPOSE THE DEAL CAN BE SEEN AS PERSONAL AFFRONT TO KENYATTA AND HAS PROBABLY BEEN PORTRAYED AS SUCH TO THE PRESIDENT BY YHOSE WHO WERE IMPLICATED BY ANYONA. THESE INCLUDE ATTORNEY GENERAL NJONJO, WHO WIELDS GREAT AUTHORITY IN INTERNAL SECURITY MATTERS. AT ONE POINT DURING DEBATE LAST WEEK, ANYONA WAS ACCUSED BY GOVERNMENT MINISTER OF USING STOLEN GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS TO BUTTRESS HIS CHARGES, AND POSSESSION OF THESE DOCUMENTS COULD BE PRETEXT EITHER FOR ARREST AND TRIAL OR FOR DETENTION. LINDSTROM

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NAIROB05611
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Subject: LEADING CRITIC OF GOVERNMENT ARRESTED
TAGS: PINT, KE, (ANYONA, GEORGE)
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